

June 7, 2023

Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Nina Carmichael, Leadership in Conservation Fellow

Re: June staff reports

Executive Management (Lorrie Pearson, Michael Daab)

- Lorrie spoke to the Urbana Rotary Club (17 attendees) about the Forest Preserves and how to help celebrate our 75th anniversary. She also greeted and rode with several families on the KRT during the bi-weekly ride organized by community member Tom Carlson. Some had never been on the KRT before.
- Lorrie attended Toast to Tourism, an annual event by Visit Champaign County (now rebranded as Experience Champaign-Urbana) and connected with a number of community members. She also attended an online discussion of the book Understanding Municipal Fiscal Health by Craig Maher and Bruce McDonald.
- Lorrie attended an open house hosted by the Community Media Group (which includes the News-Gazette) to meet the staff. The event also provided an opportunity to connect with a number of community members, including Museum Advisory Committee member David Leake, Jayne DeLuce from Experience Champaign-Urbana, Urbana City Council member Shirese Hursey, and NAACP of Champaign County President Minnie Pearson.
- Mike offered brief remarks in attendance of the memorial bench dedication for David Monk (KRT) on Saturday, May 20th. Former CCFPD Executive Director, Dan Olson, and former Commissioner Phil Hult also spoke about the impact of David Monk's impact on prairie education and protection over several decades. Mike also read the 2017 resolution dedicating the stretch of the KRT from Fulls Siding to the Salt Fork River in honor of the trail advocacy work of Mr. Monk's Heartland Pathways non-profit organization.



- Mike has begun taking on more I.T. duties, including scheduling weekly meetings with consultant Furat Ibrahim.

- Mike met with Jolie Krasinski from the Conservation Fund to discuss options for cost-share conservation assistance for agricultural lands under the umbrella of the Illinois Working Lands, Water, and Wildlife Regional Conservation Partnership Program. More discussion will follow.

CCFPD Fellow (Nina Carmichael)

- Shadowing Carron has been extended to late June to assure that all staff requests are submitted and have ample material to work with for creating the 2024 budget.
- Continuing to learn from the Effective Supervisory Skill Building training through the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) which will wrap up on June 28.
- Co-coordinated the second quarterly connections event as the chair of the Employee Engagement Committee which will be held June 8 at Lake of the Woods.
- Began supplementing communication tools for facilitation of crucial conversations facilitation with readings from [the Management Center](#).
- Compiled and categorized raw qualitative data in the form of suggestions, recommendations for ways to improve the overall culture of communication within the district.
- Will be coordinating the activities of the efficiency committee

Planning and Construction (Bridgette Moen)

- Construction has poured the concrete for the Fishermans Shelter at Lake of the Woods and Pollinator Point Shelter at Homer Lake. The shelters will be installed after the concrete has cured.
- Planning has developed a new database for our various facilities inventories and has started transferring over the data. The new system will allow staff to edit information on an ongoing basis and also allow staff to more easily run District-wide inventory reports on infrastructure.



- Sam was selected for a scholarship to complete the National Green Stormwater Infrastructure Certification Program via the National Recreation and Parks Association. He will complete the training this summer.
- The contractor has finished patching and repairing pavement at Lake of the Woods and started to oil and chip for the sealcoat project. A subcontractor will seal the asphalt at the Golf Course later this summer. A summary of the change orders to date is below and additional information is attached:

Date	Description	Add	Deduct	Balance	Remarks
02/16/2023	Contract	\$264,705.00		\$264,705.00	
05/15/2023	CO#1	\$9,450.00		\$274,155.00	+ Cold patch
05/15/2023	CO#2		\$6,450.00	\$267,705.00	Scope reduction
05/18/2023	CO#3	\$11,760.00		\$279,465.00	+ Cold patch
05/26/2023	CO#4	\$1,615.00		\$281,080.00	+ Asphalt millings

- In response to public comment at the May meeting, Construction and Planning reviewed the construction documents for the boat ramp at River Bend. The recommended slope for boat ramps is 12-15%. The ramp was designed with an 11.5% slope, but Construction field verified it at 12.8%. There was a considerable amount of sand that has settled toward the end of the ramp. Construction removed the sediment with a backhoe and boat and recommend this be completed every couple of years to prevent a build-up at the base.
- The greenhouse was demolished by Construction staff. Approximately 8 tons of concrete and 2,080 pounds of aluminum were recycled. The lowest bid from a contractor to demolish the structure was \$18,300; completing the work in house saved considerable capital.
- Sam kicked off the coordination for the Prairie State Conservation Coalition Hike App with Marketing, Natural Resources, and Site Superintendents. The first trail to be featured is Old Miner's Trail at Middle Fork with the intent of eventually adding all of CCFPD's trails to improve the user experience for visitors.

Business and Finance (John Baker)

- Responded to CliftonLarsonAllen requests during their May 8-12 field review of District financials. CLA has begun developing the audit report. Once CLA provides us with their final report, staff will review and prepare the remaining Management Plan, Discussion analysis, and statistical sections which are dependent on information from the CLA. We expect the audit report should be ready to presentation to the Board during the July meeting.
- Began internal planning with Carron Johnson and Mike Daab for the 2024 District budget preparation. Reviewed timeline with and provided budget preparation materials to department and section heads responsible for requesting and managing budgets.
- With Mike, Carron and Lorrie Pearson met with Aaron Gold, municipal advisor with Speer Financial, about bonding options for a new Nature Center facility.
- Met again with ClientFirst, Mike and Furat Ibrahim about connectivity at Homer Lake and the cyberthreat insurance requirements for PDRMA. ClientFirst investigated short term options for Homer Lake connectivity as Viasat and Watch Communications do not have adequate solutions for the Nature Center. T-mobile is sufficient for Homer Lake operations and has been determined as the best option for Nature Center needs and

services at this time as well. Comcast is a possibility for the future, but would require laying fiber optic cable at a projected cost of \$250,000.

- Experienced an eighty-two percent KnowBe4 cyberthreat completion rate for all e-mail users on the ccfpd.org domain. Staff are following up with the twelve users who did not complete the training by the deadline.

Human Resources (Mary Beck)

- During the month of May, HR processed 8 hires and 0 separations.
- As of May 1st, our total headcount was 116 employees; including 48 FT, 16 PT, 51 seasonal, and one paid intern.
- The District documented 1 employee injury report and 1 patron incident during the month of May.
- Mary attended PDRMA's (Park District Risk Management Agency) annual membership assembly meeting in May. An overview of their 2022 year and projected 2023 year was shared. PDRMA also provided Districts with individualized overviews for 2022.
- Mary completed the Office of Attorney General's OMA training for 2023.

Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)

Media this month included:

- <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/08/summer-fun-on-a-budget-around-champaign-urbana-family-kids/>
- https://www.experiencecu.org/our-stories?rec_id=271
- <https://www.wcia.com/news/take-me-fishing-event-offers-free-fishing-for-experts-first-timers-in-champaign-co/>
- <https://news.yahoo.com/tom-kacich-local-taxing-districts-145200075.html>
- <https://www.travelawaits.com/2882683/how-to-enjoy-champaign-urbana-county-summer-outdoors/>
- <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/18/playing-at-carle-park-with-your-family/>
- <https://q985online.com/ixp/671/p/heres-where-to-go-in-illinois-for-the-absolute-best-stargazing/>
- [Champaign County Forest Preserve District is turning 75: Here's how to celebrate - Culture](#)
- <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/29/beaches-swimming-champaign-urbana-central-illinois/>
- https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/inside-out-celebrating-75-years-of-forest-preserves-in-champaign-county/article_86774f10-22da-5af3-8179-4ed755e6e235.html
- <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/24/champaign-urbana-memorial-day-weekend/>

- https://mahometdaily.com/ccfpd-sticks-to-climate-commitment-in-the-decision-to-host-final-freedom-fest-in-2023-2/?fbclid=IwAR3JixjmR-9oMU2bGhUm86FvlaaEMmcC0_QpslCwKlAsSMucwqt6yIEwnn0
- https://www.news-gazette.com/news/forest-preserve-district-says-this-years-freedom-fest-will-be-the-last/article_e6e54ac5-30ce-5969-98e9-5f03547bcc09.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR1DyPOX0rRrFVzdCVBmILEINyC4AEAgi7BUAC4BKJBfkQz8_jwKFZTubqQ
- https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/31/freedom-fest-champaign-county-final-year/?fbclid=IwAR0Y5iyY_3VIIJh4hwyhyjW3YuiiKTXaaLiR6qqKFxxBFDTa_jY2Ud0S6I

Social media followers update:

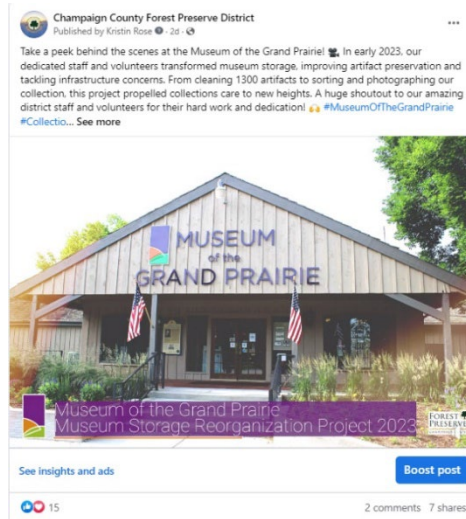
Site	Facebook	+/-	Instagram	+/-
CCFPD	7,848	+74	3,476	+28
KRT	5,197	+42	166	+1
MGP	5,395	+1	1,312	+0
HLIC	3,512	+22		
GC	2,118	+0	353	+0
FPPF	676	+0		

Facility Rentals

2023	2022	May		2023	2022
# Rentals	# Rentals	Preserve	Facility	\$	\$
14	7	HL	Salt Fork Center	\$4,250.00	\$2,500.00
9	5	HL	Walnut Hill Shelter	\$1,170.00	\$720.00
1	6	LOW	Botanical Garden Weddings	\$1,095.00	\$4,975.00
9	10	LOW	Elks Lake Pavilion	\$3,500.00	\$4,150.00
5	6	LOW	Izaak Walton Cabin	\$520.00	\$240.00
12	9	LOW	Lake of the Woods Pavilion	\$3,800.00	\$3,670.00
3	3	LOW	Lakeview Shelter	\$420.00	\$240.00
6	5	LOW	Riverview Retreat Center	\$1,160.00	\$960.00

3	9	LOW	Rotary Hill Shelter	\$680.00	\$1,110.00
3	3	LOW	Sycamore Hollow Shelter	\$375.00	\$400.00
5	4	MF	Activity Center	\$1,750.00	\$1,200.00
3	1	RB	River Bend Shelter	\$210.00	\$40.00
73	68		TOTAL	\$18,930.00	\$20,205.00

- Lisa sent Freedom Fest sponsorship letters to the 19 sponsors.
- Lisa worked with Lorrie and Mike to develop the Freedom Fest statement and talking points. She also worked with local media to deliver the statement about this year being the final for Freedom Fest at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.
- Lisa developed promotional materials for the 2023 CCFPD Summer Concert Series
- Lisa worked with the graphic designer on the June/July Leaflet, Summer Program Guide, and map updates for Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.
- Lisa continued working with Accuraty on the website update.
- Lisa worked with Illini Radio group on a summer radio schedule.
- Lisa developed a logo and tracking sheet for the 75-Mile Trail Challenge.
- Lisa developed a logo for Pedal the Preserves bike ride in August.
- Kristin created social media promotions/posts; KRT Clean Up, History Comes Alive Abraham Lincoln, recruitment for Public Program Specialist I, and a [video](#) explaining Museum Storage Reorganization Project.



- Kristin attended “Social Media Recruiting Tips” presented by the Central Illinois Human Resources Group.
- Kristin attended the Fundraising Committee Meeting, May 17th and further developed the Dark Skies info packet.
- Marketing and HR met to develop ideas for creating materials for recruitment.

- Kristin attended the Sustainability Committee Meeting and discussed Earth Day social media campaign.
- Kristin generated ads for the 75-mile Trail Challenge and 75th Anniversary exhibit.

Grants and Fundraising (Ryan Anderson)

IRA Bequest – Busey Bank has informed us that Charlene Anchor, a long-time donor and volunteer for the District who passed in February, had designated the Forest Preserve as a shared beneficiary of her IRA which is to be distributed in full, immediately. The estimated value of the Forest Preserve’s share is \$18,000 to be used for the Foundation’s greatest need. The Foundation will determine at year-end how these funds will be allocated.

June/July Leaflet – Has been sent to the printer and will include articles for Timberdoodle Trail ecological restoration, Homer Lake boat ramp, and Dark Sky amenities fundraising. A remittance envelope with checkboxes for each of these campaigns will also be included.

Fundraising Campaigns Progress as of 5/25/23:

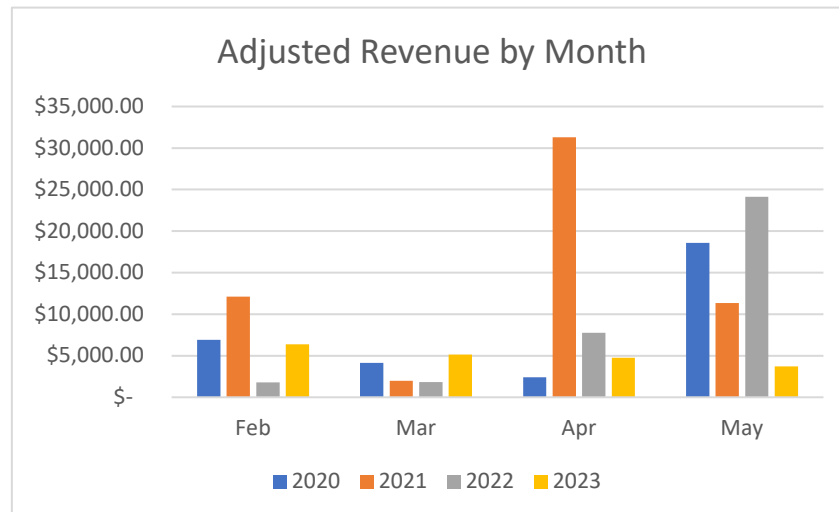
Campaign	Raised	Left	Goal	%
Purple Sky Trail	\$ 24,902.00	\$ 75,098.00	\$ 100,000.00	25%
Timberdoodle Trail	\$ 2,009.00	\$ 4,991.00	\$ 7,000.00	29%
Homer Lake Boat Launch	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	0%

Fundraising Trends (as of 5/25/23)

Donations 4 Year Summary

4 year totals:	2020	2021	2022	2023(ytd)
Total \$	\$164,219.10	\$209,832.74	\$207,053.66	\$34,320.80
Total \$ (adjusted)	\$111,738.24	\$174,725.10	\$175,731.78	\$27,562.80
# of donors (adjusted)	341	407	345	125
# of 1st time donors	134	165	87	40

“Adjusted” numbers have grants and bequests removed. Updates to Bloomerang have altered these figures:



Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Gallo)

- Three t-shirt pick up dates allowed Sue to greet and thank volunteers and take photos of them for our database. The volunteer t-shirts seem to be well received, but only a third of the volunteers attended a pick-up event. Arrangements are proceeding to distribute the remaining shirts.
- Sue met with Jennifer Gravley and CCFPD staff to start recruiting volunteers for this year's Pedal the Preserves! Mark your calendar for August 19th and 20th! This event will depend upon a lot of volunteer help.
- Twenty Champaign Rotary volunteers helped with plug planting at Middle Fork (photo). All kudos to Emily who organized this entirely! Similarly, eleven Prairie Dragon Paddlers helped with plantings around the Salt Fork Center which Skylar entirely organized. Thanks!



- A second public KRT Clean –Up event based out of St. Joseph in collaboration with the Friends of the KRT and the Village of St. Joseph was hosted with tremendous help from super-volunteer Jill Robbins. The event had 15 participants, collected trash and fostered community-CCFPD engagement.



- Sue is hoping the Catholic Heart Campers will help with the basement storage cleaning and re-organization next month, and has been working with Mary, Tim, John, Bridgette and Rusty to get things safe and ready for volunteers to do this task.

- This cohort of Lincoln’s Challenge Cadets completed volunteering with us. All parties are looking forward to resuming efforts with next season’s cadets in August.
- Lastly, kudos to the volunteer River Bend Restoration crew! The brush piles in the picture speak volumes!



Lake of the Woods Golf Course (Chris Edmondson & Joie Torres)

- With very little precipitation and seasonable temperatures, we had a very solid May at the golf course. Play was the highest we’ve seen for the month since 2005, with a total of 5,841 players. This is well above the 5-year average of 3,979. Revenue was extremely strong with a total for the month of \$161,729. This is the highest May revenue total in our history by \$29,000. We nearly doubled the 5-year revenue average of \$88,818.
- We held our first session of Get Golf Ready adult golf lessons in May. This was a full session with 11 participants (all female). These lessons cover all aspects of the golf game and are the perfect introduction to the game for a beginner. They are also great for those with some experience looking to improve their skills. David and Jason taught these sessions from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., the first four Mondays in May.
- We hosted our first few golf outings for the 2023 season. Below are the 3 events that were held at the course in May, with the player count and revenue for each.

Outing	# of Players	23 Total Rev	23 Actual Merch
Bulldog Gridiron Club	80	\$4,490.00	\$400.00
Mahomet Lions Club	100	\$6,025.00	\$525.00
Edelman Electric	72	\$4,715.00	\$360.00

- David, Jason and I spent a lot of time in May training new seasonal hires for cashier, cart attendant, starter and ranger, as well as the snack bar and beverage cart. We have hired approximately 30 seasonal employees for 2023 across all positions mentioned. We are excited about the enthusiasm and work ethic of our staff this season and look forward to them contributing to our continued growth and success in 2023.
- Maintenance crew continues to work hard on keeping the golf course in great shape. Recently they've added sand in some the bunkers on the front nine course, edge bunkers, and pulled weeds.
- Tees and fairways have been sprayed for weed and fungus control.
- The crew power washed the clubhouse deck and painted the fuel tanks.
- Assistant Superintendent has been watering the course during the day hours to maintain the turf's health due to lack of rain.

Museum and Education Department (Lorrie Pearson)

Patrons Served

	In-Person Programming*	Online Programming*	Outreach**	MGP Visitation	HLIC Visitation
Jan-23	78	302	423	Closed	40
Feb-23	286	92	35	Closed	48
Mar-23	246	150	90	707	167
Apr-23	1312	0	210	830	274
May-23	1559	0	0	1286	352
YTD	3481	544	758	2823	881

* Includes all youth and public program opportunities ** Includes loan kits and tabling events

- We have acquired two fox snakes as education ambassadors. They are very friendly and love being around people; they will help take the pressure off our rat snake with the increase in the numbers of reptiles programs each year.



- Work to relocate the remaining artifacts stored at Sangamon River shed to the Rankin Center has begun.
- Our Smith Intern, James Carter, began work on May 30th. He will be processing oral histories found in the Doris Hoskins Archive, and will be with us for about 12 weeks.
- The *Celebrating 75 Years* panel exhibit was installed in the Education Center hallway.



- After 10 years of service as the museum custodian, George Groschen retired. Staff bid him farewell on May 12th.
- We just finished a very successful school program season. We are almost back to pre-COVID numbers. We also saw all the 6th graders in Champaign Unit 4 for our Pond Life program and all the 2nd graders in Mahomet for our Schoolhouse program.
- Our Connections to Trees exhibit is up in the Interpretive Center. This exhibit showcases the importance of trees to wildlife and people.
- Stacey attended the Outdoor Weather Seminar that was hosted by the National Weather Service. This training went over the resources NWS provides including the Event Ready toolkit. This toolkit provides online tools to plan, monitor and make decision for inclement weather during outdoor programming. Stacey will share this information with pertinent employees across the District.
- First round interviews for the Education Program Specialist II position based at the Museum of the Grand Prairie are underway. Second interviews will take place in June.
- We have placed 25 out of 31 of the Counselor-in-Training applicants this year. This is the most applicants that we have had since the start of this program. In comparison, last year we placed 21 out of 22 applicants.
- General visitation at both MGP and HLIC is either at or exceeding pre-pandemic levels and we expect a busy summer season at both facilities!
- The Museum hosted the Champaign County Museums Network monthly meeting in early May.
- To expand program offerings at MF, staff coordinated new “Sunset Shows” to take place in the evening near the campground. These shows will occur on holiday weekends in the summer and feature intimate acoustic acts. The first program took place over Memorial Day weekend and featured local artist, Kenna Reiss.

- In collaboration with LOW Ops staff, the final program in this year's Garden Speaker Series featured an educational tour of Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. Rusty Maulding and Michael Dale discussed various plantings around the BG and provided tips and tricks for visitors to use when gardening themselves.



- Other programming highlights included the return of popular programs such as Take Me Fishing, the celebration of International Migratory Bird Day with a mist netting demonstration, Walk with a Naturalist at Middle Fork River, museum docent training, programs for homeschoolers, and much more.

Natural Resources (Peter Goodspeed)

- NR completed the Willow Pond native shoreline restoration project which involved the following:
 - Installed 16 coir logs in strategic, erosion prone areas around the edge of the pond. Coir logs are composed of coconut fiber logs that intercept runoff and protect the shoreline from wave action. These logs will take several years to biodegrade and will ultimately become part of the shoreline.
 - Planted 2,865 native plugs by hand along the bank of the shoreline. 36 species of native wetland gramminoids (grass-like herbaceous plant) and forbs were planted with the help of volunteers.
 - Planted 433 deep-emergent and shallow-emergent plants in the water and around the very edge of the shoreline.



- The moderate drought conditions have not been ideal for recently planted plugs and trees. It takes one person an estimated 10 hours per week to water these plants two times per week.
- Integrated pest management (IPM) was in full swing in May with the targeting of the following invasive plant species:
 - Reed canary grass at
 - Sangamon River FP
 - Middle Fork River FP
 - Lake of the Woods FP
 - Wild parsnip, yellow sweet clover, Canada thistle, bird's-foot trefoil, and purple crown vetch at Lake of the Woods FP - Buffalo Trace.
- Anna began collecting native seed from plant populations throughout the preserves that including the following species:
 - Field pussytoes
 - Canadian wood betony
 - Wild hyacinth
 - Wild geranium
 - Jacob's ladder
- The NR department welcomed its new seasonal natural resources technician, Lincoln Evans. Lincoln is a student at the University of Illinois in the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) and has participated in many volunteer events with CCFPD as a member of the Red Bison ecological restoration group.
- Eric took his test for the arborist certification exam with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
- Peter spoke on the Chambana Proud podcast with Lorrie and also spoke on WCIA CiLiving about the District's sustainability endeavors.

Lake of the Woods (Rusty Maulding)

- Annual planting was delayed until almost mid-May due to a late bout of cold temperatures in late April and early May. Staff did a great job of getting almost everything installed prior to Memorial Day weekend and are recovering nicely on deferred tasks such as weeding.
- There is a leak in the waterfall at the botanical garden. We are in the process of identifying where the leak is in order to repair it. It is likely the waterfall will be shut down periodically until a fix can be completed. We hope to be able to leave it running most weekends and during all wedding events held at the botanical garden.
- We switched away from an outside contractor to make turf applications in-house at the botanical gardens this year. Thank you, Joie Torres, for making the first application! We plan to move in a more organic and sustainable direction with treatments. Having in-house control also allows for greater flexibility in responding to needs as opposed to standard blanket applications.

- Michael Dale has started collecting seed from our property to sew in newly invasive-cleared woodlands. He and his staff are excited to assist with restoration work on these former thickets and is learning a great deal about storage and germination requirements for many species.
- Lake of the Woods Pavilion parking lot received an upgrade over the past few weeks. The median has been converted into a native planting bed from mostly mulch with a few hackberry trees sprinkled in. There are a few more shade plants as well as some tree cookies that will be used as steppers through the space that will be installed this fall and summer respectively.



- Pedal boats and kayaks are ready to float! Boat rentals were opened Memorial Day weekend.
- After a very slow start, seasonal staffing came on strong at the end of May. By the first full week of June, we anticipate being fully staffed. Thank you, Mary Beck!
- Almost all building security monitoring issues have been resolved at various Lake of the Woods buildings. Over the last month to 6 weeks, work has been done to repair, update or replace services at Museum of the Grand Prairie, Headquarters and Golf Pro Shop. Fire monitoring will also be added to the Golf Cart Barn in early June.
- Rusty Maulding resumed participation as a panelist on MidAmerican Gardener in April and returned in May. We hope to host a show at Lake of the Woods and perhaps other preserves in the future.

Homer Lake (Skylar Smith)

- Two wayfinding signs went up on the Oak Ridge Trail before Memorial Day and were destroyed quickly thereafter. In response to this incident, the marketing department is working on acquiring a sturdier form of signage as replacements.
- We are now offering Wi-Fi to guests of the Salt Fork Center! We installed a router with the necessary securities to prevent hacking of our network. The current system will provide internet connectivity for several devices, although we are recommending to each renter that the password not be given out to entire parties so that the system does not become bogged down.
- Skylar, Peter, and Mike met to discuss next steps in managing the Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds for the implementation of ecological restoration projects at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Mike is also working with the IL Department of Natural Resources to ensure that terms of the intergovernmental agreement are met, or adjusted as necessary.
- Homer Lake operations used the new mini excavator to complete a long overdue trail wash issue on the Oak Ridge Trail. We were able to redirect water under the trail that had previously been running down the trail for more than 100 feet during heavy rain events.



- All KRT signage is now up! Staff worked to install all remaining I-beam signage and spruced up the picnic area near The Wheel House in Saint Joseph with riprap graciously given to us by Middle Fork operations.



- New faucets and mirrors were installed at the Walnut Hill Shelter.
- All seasonal employees at Homer Lake are now working their summer schedules and we're excited about the amount of work being accomplished!

Middle Fork (Matthew Kuntz)

- Over the last 7-8 weeks Middle Fork hasn't received rain and are now experiencing pretty bad drought conditions. We stopped mowing user areas during the last week of May, and the three ponds have lowered substantially, including Willow Pond, where we lost a couple of feet of water. The wells have been kicked on to help fill Willow Pond, and we have recovered the water level loss.
- The swim beach has been delayed from opening this summer due to backlogs with the Public Health Department. Several other facilities across the state are experiencing the same issues. We have finally received our water sampling bottles and I have visited with several officials with the Health Department to establish an opening date. We hope to open the swim beach June 9.
- Camping numbers are looking good through the month of May and entering June with dry weather and good temperatures. Memorial Day weekend was successful with staff hosting several activities through the weekend including Take Me Fishing, live music at

the playground shelter, our annual cornhole tournament, and face painting for the kids. We had 75 kids get their face painted and 175 people attended the cornhole tournament.

- Thanks to the Construction crew for helping us install some power outlets at the playground shelter. We needed the power pad at the shelter to host the summer concert activities within the campground and it is really paying off.

Equity in Action

- Nina began the Diversifying Conservation with Indigenous Perspectives provided by the Morton Arboretum, a member of the Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN) of The Nature Conservancy.